

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 106358

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PINT, LE

SUBJECT:LEBANON INTERNAL: BASHIR GEMAYEL'S EMISSARY

REF: BEIRUT 2345; 2211

1. ALFRED MADY SAW ME ON APRIL 25, AND I WILL SEE HIM AGAIN NEXT WEEK. I WAS PREPARED, OF COURSE, TO MAKE IT COMPLETELY CLEAR TO HIM THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO US ENCOURAGEMENT OF ANY WILD IDEAS TO DEPOSE SARKIS. HE DID NOT RPT NOT TAKE THIS TACK, HOWEVER, BUT DEVELOPED THE THEME RATHER ELLIPTICALLY THAT SARKIS WAS NOT UP TO THE MARK IN TERMS OF LEADERSHIP AND THAT THE OLD LEADERSHIP GENERALLY WAS NOT CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING THE NEW LEBANON. I PUNCHED INTO THIS ARGUMENT VERY STRONGLY, SAYING THAT HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES MUST NOT RPT NOT CONSIDER DOING ANYTHING THAT WOULD UNDERCUT THE LEGITIMACY AND THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, ;HICH WAS ALL IMPORTANT. HE

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BACKED OFF, PROTESTING THAT HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES WOULD NEVER CONSIDER SUCH A THING. THIS WAS ABOUT AS DIRECT AS THE TWO OF US GOT ON THE ISSUE YOU RAISED, BUT I THINK HE COULD BE LEFT IN NO DOUBT AS TO THE US ATTITUDE.

2. THE PRINCIPAL THEME HE DEVELOPED WAS A SURPRISINGLY UP-BEAT CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SIX-POINT RESOLUTION ADOPTED

BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THIRTEEN. I SAID I HAD HEARD A NEWS REPORT THAT BACHIR GEMAYEL HAD SAID THAT IT WAS A WORTHLESS SCRAP OF PAPER. MADY VEHEMENTLY DENIED THAT BACHIR HAD SAID THIS, AND NOTED THAT HE HAD SEEN OTHER MISQUOTATIONS IN THE AMERICAN PRESS ABOUT BACHIR. HE SAID HE HAD TALKED TO BACHIR THAT MORNING AND BACHIR HAD ASSURED HIM THAT HE SUPPORTED THE THRUST OF THAT RESOLUTION.

3. I SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED. TAKING THE MOST UPBEAT TONE, I SAID THAT THE INTER-CONFESSIONAL SUPPORT BY IMPORTANT LEADERS SUGGESTED TO US THAT SARKIS COULD FORM A GOOD GOVERNMENT, HAVING SUBSTANTIAL BACKING. IT WAS HIGHLY IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT THE YOUNGER LEADERS IN THE COUNTRY SUCH AS THE GEMAYEL SONS LEND ACTIVE SUPPORT TO THIS BUDDING CONSENSUS.

4. I POINTED OUT THAT WE WERE FRANKLY DISTURBED BY THE INCREASING TALK OF PARTITION, AND MADY AGAIN ASSERTED THAT BACHIR WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF THIS CONCEPT, AS BACHIR HAD MADE CLEAR TO US IN HIS WASHINGTON VISIT. I COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS NEVERTHELESS A LOT OF TALK ABOUT IT.

5. THE ONLY INDISCREET COMMENT I PERMITTED MYSELF WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE SEEN SARKIS ADDRESSING THE NATION ON RADIO AND TELEVISION MORE FRE-  
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QUENTLY. WE THOUGHT HE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HIS EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD, BUT THEY HAD BEEN FEW IN NUMBER.

6. MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION WAS TAKEN UP WITH THE EVOLVING BAD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SYRIANS AND LEBANESE, BOTH CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS. I ARGUED FORCEFULLY THAT PHALANGE LEADERS HAD AN IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP MATTERS UNDER CONTROL WHEN FIGHTING ERUPTED. WHATEVER THE ACTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL SYRIANS, THE US WAS CONVINCED, I SAID, THAT THE SYRIAN LEADERS WANTED STABILITY IN LEBANON AND A STRONG GOVERNMENT AND THEY WANTED TO LEAVE LEBANON JUST AS SOON AS THAT SECURITY AND STABILITY COULD BE ASSURED. I SAID THAT OUR MILITARY SURVEY TEAM HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH SOME ASPECTS OF THE ARMY'S REBUILDING PROGRAM, AND REMARKED ON THE ELAN THE TEAM HAD NOTED AMONG THE NEWLY-RECRUITED UNITS IN PARTICULAR. I ENCOURAGED MADY TO GIVE EVERY SUPPORT POSSIBLE TO THESE REBUILDING EFFORTS. THEY WERE MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN BACHIR HAD DESCRIBED TO US ON HIS WASHINGTON VISIT.

7. MADY SAID THAT HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES WERE PUSHING FOR AN EXPANSION AND UPGRADING OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES,

WHICH SHOULD NOT BE UNDER CENTRAL AUTHORITY BUT, RATHER,  
UNDER DISTRICT GOVERNORS. I SAID WE ALSO HOPE FOR THE EARLY

REBUILDING OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES.

8. MADY SUMMED UP MEETING BY SUGGESTING THAT THE US  
SHOULD PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE, PARTICULARLY VIS A VIS  
THE SYRIANS. I SAID THAT OUR ACTIONS IN LEBANON REVOLVE  
EXCLUSIVELY AROUND OUR BASIC SUPPORT FOR THE SARKIS  
GOVERNMENT AND ITS MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPING A BROAD  
POLITICAL CONSENSUS, ASSURING SECURITY AND STABILITY, AND  
REBUILDING IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE ARMY. VANCE

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